Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1873.

THE QUESTION of the immediate annexation of the Sandwich Islands is being agitated in some quarters; the grounds on which the proposition is advocated being that, inasmuch as the lately deceased king left no heir to the throne, and since we greatly need a naval coaling station in the Pacific, we ought to take advantage of the extraordinary facility that exists for a successful *coup d' etat* on our part; all the more for the reason that "the power of the English and French in the islands amounts to literally nothing, and that just at the present juncture there is not a war vessel of either nationality within a hundred leagues." It strikes us very forcibly that the ethics underlying this proposition will meet with the contempt instead of the sanction of the American people. No doubt the acquisition of the islands in question is in some respects a desirable object; nor is there any reason why, if a favorable opportunity offers, annexation should not be invited, conditioned, of course, upon the approval of the people of this country. The grounds on which the movement is urged, however, are utterly unwarrantable; being, when stripped of their plausible phraseologic guise, exactly of a kidney with the political morality of the Scottish freebooter, whose whole theory and practice of *meum* and *tuum* was summed up in the lines:

"That they shall take, who have the power,
And they shall keep, who can."

THE NEW YEAR.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-three! A happy New Year to all! The months of the old year have dropped away from us like worn-out autumn leaves; but to-day, springing from them, comes forth another year, as the flower bursts from the bud, reproducing again the everlasting miracle of life out of death, of vigor out of decay. In the large sense, nothing perishes. Spring, summer and autumn pass, each in its turn, but the harvests are gathered in. The years go "as a tale that is told," but the lessons which they teach abide. We do not understand the meaning of things until we look back at them from a distance. If we have lost the year, it is only that we may get it back in a deeper and truer way. It is now our inheritance, which nothing can take from us. All its incitations are ours. The heroes and sages of a richer time are far more ours than they were the property of those among whom their daily lives were passed. So with the year that is gone. The patience, the affection, the unselfishness, the devotion, the honorable human emprise, that were born of it and bound up with it, remain forever. It has been an eventful year. Men that have clutched empires have been pushed from their stools. Great intellects have been quenched in darkness. Water and fire, earthquake and famine, have spread terror and desolation. But calamities have divine uses. Sorrow is woven into the very warp and woof of life. The nerves were strung to acquire, and the heart to bleed. Suffering seems indispensable to the development of humanity, and through it men attain larger stature. But there have been many compensations. We have had no war. The land has plenty and to spare. Our national wealth has developed in all directions. Outside of the great cities there is general abundance. We have set the world an example of bloodless arbitration. The oppressed people of all countries continue to seek homes upon our soil. At the bottom of all we have a real basis of national liberty, honor, prosperity and happiness; and therefore abundant cause for thankfulness, courage, faith, and well directed effort throughout the new year that has just dawned. When its starry circle is completed, may it leave us all better, braver and truer than it found us at the beginning.

The Survey of Palestine.

The first visible results of the labors of the surveying party sent out by the Palestine Exploration Fund have been received in England, in the shape of three large photographs and the new map of the Holy Land, embracing an area of 650 square miles. On these maps are laid down, with mathematical accuracy, the trees, the plantations, the villages and the houses—not every object that stands upon the ground. Other tracings are expected in January, 1873, when some plan for their publication will be adopted. At present, however, the results are entirely unexplored; and notwithstanding the numerous books on the country, it is far less known and understood than any other historic region. Under these circumstances a survey of the Holy Land with an identification of the ancient sites, is of undeniable importance to students of the Bible. It is true that the ground of the work is looked forward to with great interest. The amount of field work at present actually "plotted" covers one thousand square miles —expanding over a belt of land seventy miles long, between Jaulich, in the south, and Safed, on Esdraelon, on the north. The "base of verification," measured on the plain of Esdraelon, is stated to be agreed very satisfactorily with the length as calculated by triangulation. The tracings give correctly the complex water-courses of the country, which in other maps are laid down conventionally, or as running down in wild disorder.

A Magnetic Lock.

One of the most ingenious of mechanisms recently brought out is that known as the magnetic lock. It consists of four combination wheels, all revolving on one stud; each of these wheels has a single slot or notch in its edge, and the arrangement is such, that, when these are all brought into line, the bolt may be thrown.

Over these wheels is a lever or dog, which, when they are all set right, falls into these slots, and releases the bolt. The lever does not rest its weight on the wheels, but is brought to them by a spring or cam, as it locks usually, but most of the weight is held off them by means of a powerful magnet. Every time the knob is turned one letter, the magnet is separated from the lever, which, if the slot are all set right, instantly drops into them, releasing the bolt.

The action of the magnet in this manner shuts off entirely the use of the micrometer, an instrument sometimes applied to picking locks. The lever or dog is nearly, not quite, sustained by the attraction of the magnet, and never comes in full contact with them and the knob outside at the same time, so as to form a continuous shock. The arbors do not pull out, or shove in, while operating the lock, nor is there any "dead locking" as in many other locks, to which force can applied so as to wrench off the knob when the lock is in the locked position.

Pure Water Antagonistic to Public Health.

A writer in the *Constitutionnel* devotes an article to "The Public Health of Europe and the Dangers of Pure Water." Citing the heavy roll of diarrhea cases in England, the instances of isolated cholera in America, he argues that these maladies come, most frequently, not to those who breathe bad air from improper diet, and that a very common cause is the use or pure or seemingly pure water. It is certain, according to this writer, that the water, in all appearance frequently containing thousands of germs of bad sorts, only revealed through the microscope—perhaps eggs or germs more obscure still—the development of which, in the human body, produces mortal infections, isolated maladies, and epidemics. The most effective means of counteracting the dangers of pure water is by boiling, by which the pernicious germs are destroyed. The same writer recommends, therefore, tea and coffee, though he also says that wines, and even fermenting liquors, are good, as alcohol destroys those microscopic agents in a water that are so dangerous to health.

Lubrication Without Fatty Matter.

It has been a long time the practice, with horologists to use graphite as a reducer of friction, in even the most delicate pieces of mechanism. In blowing engines, also, if the cylinder packing is dry graphite is the only lubrication used. These facts have led to the simple experiment of ascertaining the effect of a mixture of graphite—prepared—by decoction—and hog's lard, first in the stuffing-box of a pumping engine, and subsequently upon a steam engine. The result proved to be very satisfactory in this case, the only especial care requisite being to keep up the necessary quantity of graphite in the mixture, as otherwise it becomes too fluid. In another experiment, in which a paste of graphite and water was employed, the result proved equally effective; the slight escape of steam into the stuffing-box was sufficient to keep the graphite in a moist condition, and the lubrication seemed quite perfect, although there was no fatty matter present.

SERPENT WORSHIP is one of the most ancient forms of superstition, and traces of it are still found in many widely separated localities. It is affirmed on quite good authority that the cobra still reigns supreme among the people of Taos, New Mexico. Every fall a sort of harvest home is held, of which various games and races are the open programme. It is asserted, however, that at this season more mysterious rites are celebrated, a hidden snake, or anaconda—being exhibited to the faithful. More than this, it is declared that a human victim, probably a child bought in some distant village, is offered to the reptile. A writer in *Chambers' Journal*, who has been in New Mexico, says no one pretended to have seen the sacrifice; although two men, who were about the most likely in the district to have done it, averred that they had seen the Taos snake. We do not propose to inquire into the truth of this story, assuming, nevertheless, that our government officials should discover its correctness.

AS important bill was introduced in the South Carolina Legislature a few days ago, to regulate the insurance business in that State. It provides that each insurance company doing business in the State shall deposit a certain amount of State bonds with the Comptroller General, for the benefit of policyholders from loss, and an amendment increases the amount of the bonds to be deposited. In the Senate, Mr. Dunn has introduced a bill which further amends the act by allowing insurance companies to deposit either State or United States bonds at their option. It further gives the Comptroller General, upon proof of the insolvency of a company, power to sell as much of the bonds so deposited as may be necessary, without an order of court, as is now required, and devote the proceeds to reinsuring holders of policies in such other companies as may be designated by them.

GREAT is the wrath of the Woodhull at the people of the modern Athens. She was announced to deliver a lecture there last Monday evening, but the proprietors of the hall engaged for the occasion repented of their bargain, and refused to permit the Woodhull to descend upon their platform. Efforts to secure another hall were futile, and the learned discourse on "Moral Cowardice, or Four Weeks in the Ludlow street Jail" was indefinitely postponed. All this made Madame Victoria very angry, and she threatens unpleasant remedies upon those who prevented her from having her say.

SEVERAL improvements in the art of photographic printing on canvas have recently been made, among the difficulties arising from the use of carbonate of lead and linseed oil, in giving body and surface to the canvas have, it is believed, been overcome. The process consists in first killing the oil with ammonia, and the surface of the canvas is then washed with a solution of citric acid and water. After drying there is applied a size consisting of gum benzoin, citric acid and a suitable colorie. The surface can then be silvered and a print taken by means of a negative, and toned in the usual way.

A PHILADELPHIA LETTER says: "The city is spreading in all directions. Never has building been so extensively carried on as it is now. No less than 6,295 building permits were granted last year, and in the course of time the city bids fair to entirely cover the 129 square miles of land which are within its limits in accordance with the act of the State Legislature of 1854."

FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

Not a Brilliant Social Season.

Money Spent Faster than it is Earned.

What Dress Costs—New Year Gifts and Toilettes—New Things in Swiss Carvings—Lockets and Ornaments—The Business Woman's Home.

Society papers and long lists of weddings and receptions to the contrary notwithstanding, this is not a "brilliant" social season. "It rarely is," observes the wiseacre "after a political campaign." But while this is true, and every four years becomes more so, for the cost of electing a president is constantly increasing, like everything else, still it does not account for the over dullness in business circles which even the holidays fail to dissipate.

High priced fabrics imported largely at the beginning of the season are "marked down" to an unusual and alarming extent, while special holiday articles, brought from every part of the world, for Christmas and New Year gifts, lay for the most part on shelves. There is an apparent flurry of excitement in some of the large toy bazaars, but even this is more seeming than real; there is no solid basis of prosperity beneath it. Parties, who appear to be in the midst of a golden harvest are in reality trembling on the verge of bankruptcy.

The truth is that the day is past when large fortunes can be made with rapidity in legitimate business in any of our large cities. The enormous expenses, the excessive competition, and distributive rather than productive labor forbid it, and some great commercial disasters must be expected that will force young men into other occupations, and to compel merchants to rest their operations upon a more solid and substantial basis.

It is a significant fact that ninety-nine out of every one hundred mechanics in the large cities of this country are foreigners, whose earnings now average from four to five dollars per day, while any quantity of "gentlemanly young American men," the product of "business" colleges and high schools, can be got to keep books or do any kind of "genteel" writing for from six to ten dollars per week.

Nice prospect this for American girls! Where are the husbands of the next generation to come from?

"TEN THOUSAND A YEAR."

For the past few years an ordinary fortune has been nowhere in the estimation of the citizens of our ambitious republic. The possessor of $100,000 is a poor man, the owner of $500,000 can just make out to live, while the income from a million barely suffices to keep up an "establishment," to supply the wants and prodigality of servants, to pay the restaurateur and the wine merchant, afford the means for an occasional trip to Europe, and pay the Parisian dressmakers and modiste's monthly bills. The country is undoubtedly rich, but all the mines in Colorado could not keep it going at that rate for any length of time; and the sooner enough spending twice as fast as money can be made, the better it will be for us in the long run.

WHAT DRESS COSTS.

Much cannot be put down to the score of extravagance in dress on the part of woman, for never were so many old dresses made to do duty at fashionable entertainments as this season. Talk of only wearing a handsome dress once; why I have seen one made to do frequent duty one, two and three seasons in succession, and then remodelled for a fourth, at a very slight expense; and this by a society lady who goes out a great deal and has the credit of dressing well.

The brilliant costume of dress nowadays is in the labor of making, and the enormous price of imported articles to cover the great expense of doing business. A jacket or cloak which would have cost ten dollars ten years ago now costs twenty-five to thirty; a suit that could have been made for fifteen can now be only made or bought for forty-five; and the substantial article, that is, the article of genuine dollars was considered a good price, is transformed into a nondescript which is only adapted to certain styles of dress, and is called a cheap and fraudulent bit of finery. Ladies, therefore, are obliged to spend much more money on their clothes without being any better dressed. For this they are not responsible. They have not what they want put before them and give what is demanded from them. As men control politics and finances it is their own fault if they do not give us a system which makes prices low and money plentiful.

WINTER COSTUMES.

There is an appearance of plainness and solidity about the winter costumes as seen in the street and upon the drives in the fashionable avenues which does not seem to justify the cost of this part of a lady's wardrobe. Nothing, for instance, could be more simple or sober for a quiet lady's dress than to give us a plain black silk dress, walking length, a seal skin jacket, and muff and black velvet bonnet trimmed with black thread lace and marabout feathers matching the shading of the band of silver fox which bordered the seal skin set. Yet this costume represented alone in the four articles of dress, jacket, muff and bonnet, required an outlay of five hundred dollars.

The latest designs in cloth are perfectly plain and untrimmed. They consist of a gored skirt cut rather long behind, and over this a long, plain coat of reversible cloth, same shade, open in the front and the corners turned back to form large *revers* by fastening the corners of the waist, which ends under the point of the basque behind. Cuffs and collar both show the under side of the cloth, and together with the *revers* afford an abundant relief to the otherwise plain dress. Large, round Iron grey, dark blue and invisible green are considered most distinguished, and the edges are finished only with a black silk cord for piping.

English walking jackets, plain and double breasted, have had a great success this season. They are cut strictly coat shape, high on the shoulders, and have the sleeves of a fulling material and sleeves shaped to the arm, with single cuffs. The cloth is of the very best quality. "Broad" or "tricot," only the darkest shades being used, and the finishing uniformly silk cord, piping and buttons—the latter black silk or oxydized silver.

These jackets are much more in keeping with the restricted style of street costume than the absurd Dolmans with their short bodies and wide hanging sleeves, which bear no relation whatever to any part of the dress and do not seem to be a part of it.

Sleeveless jackets of cloth, silk or velvet, are cut with points back and front, plain and close fitting, and are worn over a dress of the same material with a small standing collar, cuffs and basque of black moire antique. The skirt was made with a small train and otherwise perfectly plain. A soft, thick ruche of white tulle, finished the neck and wrists.

A handsome dress of white French muslin, properly trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion, has bretelles and sash of pleated chiffon, with crape, intermingled with loops and ends of black velvet, the latter edged with lace, the crape with fringe to match.

A charming toilette consists of a soft, pale cameo tinted *satin de Sens*, with overskirt and sleeveless basque, embroidered with shaded tea roses and golden brown foliage, the sleeves *a la Marie Antoinette*, the undersleeves and fichu for the neck of the finest mailines pleating, edged with honiton.

Damask stuffs are not as much worn this season as last, or rather, I should say, not as fashionably. There are some toilettes prepared for elderly ladies of black silk, brocaded with grey satin flowers, or foliage, and grey brocaded with white, which are very distinguished and most becoming when softened by the folds of a tulle handkerchief, which are sometimes worn inside as a handkerchief and otherwise outside as a fichu.

A very good effect is produced by a costume composed as follows: Demitrained skirt of black velvet or silk velveteen; polonaise of pearl grey silk, bordered with fringe to match, and worn under a small sleeveless basque of black velvet, embroidered with a vine pattern in pearl grey silk. The polonaise is long at the back and looped up with embroidered bands of black velvet, which are employed also to ornament the Duchesse sleeves.

A handsome sash of blue and pink faille and bow to match for the hair and corsage, is the popular method of freshening up a black silk toilette which has already done some service. A pretty collar and sleeves of real lace are a matter of course.

Many old ladies of the severe Knickerbocker type now refuse absolutely to admit of a particle of trimming upon their dresses. Their every day costumes, when dressed for calls or dinner parties, would be in very rich black moire silver grey silk, a handkerchief of white *crepe lisse*, laid in narrow folds and edged with broad, old lace crossed over the bosom, and a cap or turban of *lisse*, headbands of plain colored pin or diamond star over the forehead. A cross of oxydized silver or rococo pears is suspended from black ribbon, velvet, upon the neck.

With plain toilettes of black velvet, some ladies affect large silver (Normandy) crosses and pins for the hair, arranged upon barbes of lace.

HOLIDAY GIFTS.

The popular gifts of the season nearly all come under the two heads of bows and boxes. Cravat bows have been largely indulged in during the past five years, and the different varieties that have succeeded each other are of repeatedly astonishing. The immense numbers exhibited for holiday gift purposes. Most of them are of foreign manufacture. You recognize them by the pin at the back and a certain grace of fold and finish." There are wide ends of ribbon fringed, and knotted bows and ends of twilled silk fringed out. Double bows of black or colored faille edged with lace, and handsome bows and headbands of China *crepe*, the former edged with fringe, the latter trimmed with Valenciennes lace.

The prices of these stock upon cards, range from twenty-five cents to two dollars, and as they are really pretty and well made, they have been sold by thousands for the adorning of Christmas trees in lieu of more costly articles.

More important than the bows, however, are the boxes. Year by year they increase in beauty and in variety. The best are of morocco in satin or chrystal, gilt mounted; but the polished or perfumed wood, retaining the natural grain and odor, are to some thinking even more desirable.

The fancies in confectionary cases are endless. All the fruits and vegetables known are represented, and filled with lich fruit open upon a real dish, so that the illusion is complete. Every pair of sweet lips is filled with bon-bons. Then there are rolls and small loaves, and bullets of wood, a plate with a hard cover, a cake upon it, which lifts up and discloses sweets inside. The holiday display of jewelry is very fine and rich, but unfortunately it is not distinctive. The usual long chains, massive bracelets, sets, and breast pins belonging to which are now never worn, and lockets which are giving place to crosses. Jewelry, therefore, is a poor investment.

SWISS CARVINGS.

Novelties in carved work are very fashionable for gifts and gift weddings. They appeal strongly to our love of what is artistic and ingenious. These little carvings, according to the salesman, are cut and painted by hand. To examine them carries us to the homes of the humble carvers, who thus find a vent for their inborn love of the beautiful in nature. Being novelties and luxuries, the prices are high; and this fact would not be questioned if the buyer felt that the artist was paid in proportion. A visit to one of these stores is well spent time. The list of articles is very large, including the useful as well as the ornamental—from pen handles to clocks. There are carved frames in oak and black walnut, frames on which are painted wreathes of flowers in brilliant colors, and frames of the most elaborate, and others equally delicate. Paper knives also show bunches arranged to match the frames. Carved fern leaves for card baskets—the real leaf, which is first thoroughly soaked in water, then painted and gilded and silvered, and finally dipped in gum arabic, and then laid upon a sheet of white paper. The latter looks the common purse, and buys all kinds of supplies, which are furnished free to the people. He designates everybody's employment, he gives new married couples their houses; and his everything his own way. He has the assistance of a Board of Elders, but only as far as he chooses. The colonial lands covers twenty sections, or 12,800 acres, and are collectively recorded in Keil's name. Should he die intestate (he is now sixty years old) his heirs would get all his property. Holly holding its scarlet berries, violets, heart's-ease, forget-me-nots and roses. Then, to suit the masculine taste, there are pen wipers, representing birds of animals, painted artistically and the household is remembered in carved crumb brushes, with pretty trays. People with cards for a wooden wedding will go one farther, and have a wooden parson to fail to be as happy as pretty gifts can make them.

LOCKETS AND FANS.

Quaint weird fancies are the order of the day in all that appertains to jewelry. What there is beautiful, however, in a remaining Arabia Felix will soon be a thing of the past, is what I am, I must say, unable to discover. The Sphynx in ear-rings of agate has some artistic merit in the delicacy of the design and workmanship, but an enormous *death's head moth* as a locket is a thing to be fled from and only to be classed with the horrid, though exquisitely carved skulls, with which, as sleeve-buttons and shawl pins, the ruder sex have for some time past entertained themselves by appalling their lady friends. Steel lockets are not pretty, and there is always a danger in wearing a steel watch-chain that your friends "Rob, the Grinder" calls the "electric fluency." Steel, indeed, was originally introduced by a French actor, and though in some designs it has the effect of diamonds upon the stage, it certainly has not when seen in the boxes, and the steel diadems now adopted—It may be observed that steel ornaments and jets invariably revive at the same time—are very far from being as handsome, though quite as expensive as the coral, shell and jet cornets. The lockets I particularly allude to as "new style" are ornamented with what have been political—French or Italian—signification. Alsace and Lorraine arms on each side of the eagle of France, and ear rings and brooch with "Rome" in the finishing uniformly silk cord, piping and buttons—the latter black silk or oxydized silver.

These jackets are much more in keeping with the restricted style of street costume than the absurd Dolmans with their short bodies and wide hanging sleeves, which bear no relation whatever to any part of the dress and do not seem to be a part of it.

Sleeveless jackets of cloth, silk or velvet, are cut with points back and front, plain and close fitting, and are worn over a dress of the same material over a plain, high necked coat, sleeved dress of silk or cashmere in a contrasting color. No trimming is required, the cord and piping forming the jacket, and lace ruffles at the neck and wrists complete the garniture.

A variation from this is proposed for early spring wear, that is already very effective. It consists of a mantellet which deepens at the back and is drawn in to the waist by an elastic string. A secondary cape furnishes additional protection to the shoulders, and turns up at the back in the style that has become so popular; an overskirt accompanies it, which is shaped longer at the back, shorter at the sides and front in outline. There is no looping up. The plain or plaited skirt and close cut sleeves of a serge or cashmere dress look exceedingly well under this costume, in grey or brown ladies' cloth; and if it is as popular as it is pretty and serviceable, it will be very well worn.

NEW YEAR TOILETTES.

There are two occasions upon which New York women—not ladies only, but the rank and file—like to show new and pretty toilettes. These are Easter Sunday and the first of January. Easter Sunday is very apt to be cold and unpropitious, but the first of January is subject to no contingencies. Upon this day the woman who has a home is bound to be at home in all the glory she is able to muster to such of her gentlemen friends who choose to call, and for a brief period, therefore, she is at liberty to revel in the freedom she enjoyed in her girlhood, and forget Mr. Mill and her own subjection to the one-man power.

Naturally her New Year toilette is a matter of greater interest to the wife than to the husband. She cannot tell him how secretly desirous she is to look well, and impress Slowcoach with a proper sense of what he missed by not proposing in time. She would not like to even admit that she wishes to try the effect of her newly acquired matronlys grace upon obtuse individuals who were insensible to her maiden charms when they were in the market. Yet she has a deal of this latent coquetry, useless, and hesitates long between the serviceable black silk, with white *fichu* and overskirt, and the pale blue which "everybody" says is so becoming to brunettes, but which will not stand one single touch from baby fingers.

Well, what is life after all but a fabric made up of infinitesimal light shades, with much black and grey woven in. Let us stick to the blue while we can. But New Year's toilettes! We must pass the old ones, the "made-over" ones, those triumphs of secret skill and ingenuity, that afford twice the satisfaction to the wearer that a brand new dress, fresh from the hands of the *modiste* does, and describe a few prepared for those fortunate ladies whose husbands or fathers have not experienced the tightness of the money market, or who have "pin" money of their own.

One of these is of very rich black silk, plain trained skirt, with a pale lor but no overskirt, only an apron of *gimpure d' art*. The small basque is ornamented with the same to give the effect of embroidery, and has a vest and ruffles of antique lace to complete the neck and wrists of the coat sleeves.

Another black dress is of Lyons velvet, with *cape* collar, cuffs and basque of black moire antique. The skirt was made with a small train and otherwise perfectly plain. A soft, thick ruche of white tulle, finished the neck and wrists.

A handsome dress of white French muslin, properly trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion, has bretelles and sash of pleated chiffon, with crape, interningled with loops and ends of black velvet, the latter edged with lace, the crape with fringe to match.

A charming toilette consists of a soft, pale cameo tinted *satin de Sens*, with overskirt and sleeveless basque, embroidered with shaded tea roses and golden brown foliage, the sleeves *a la Marie Antoinette*, the undersleeves and fichu for the neck of the finest mailines pleating, edged with honiton.

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THE BUSINESS WOMAN'S HOME.

The contrasts of life in great cities presented themselves vividly at the recent opening of the Home for Business Women, established by the benevolent enterprise of a few Brooklyn ladies in that city of homes and churches. The building is admirable so far as it goes. It will accommodate fifty persons in a manner homelike and comfortable. All attention has been paid to heating and ventilation, and every corner in the five story house is as clean as new wood and white paint can make it. On the first or basement floor are a large dining room, a kitchen, a laundry, a drying room, closets without end, and a little side room where late women can get ready for the table without the trouble of going up stairs. The next floor has a large saloon parlor, at the back of which is a raised platform for private entertainments, lectures, etc., a small parlor, closets, and an ideal little office, the property of a lady physician to the institution. On the floor above is a fine sitting room, a room reserved for any person who may be ill, bath rooms and bed rooms. Two floors over this are divided into bed rooms, bath rooms and closets. By an admirable foresight, each room admits the sunlight, and the views from the upper windows are beautiful. The rooms are furnished at option by the board of managers or the occupant. A peep into one of them afforded gratifying proof of woman's taste and faculty for making home anywhere. Here a piano, there a sewing machine, told the calling of the occupants. In every room were pictured vases, flowering plants tastefully arranged, and little souvenirs of the other "home" far away. Throughout the whole house was a warmth and brightness entirely at variance with the common order of boarding houses. Entrance as a boarder is obtained by application at the office of the board, and the usual reference as to character. The table is carefully and bountifully supplied. Terms are as follows: Single room on third floor, with board, $6.50 a week; fourth floor, $5.50; fifth floor, $4.50. When two persons occupy one room, fifty cents a week each is taken off the above rates. Day board is done at the house at seventy-five cents per dozen. Mrs. Anna M. Field has been the good and active genius of the undertaking, of which these details are given, that they may serve as a guide to others who may be working in the same direction.

The point, however, is this: This house, which has cost the continued and persevering effort of a number of women for two years, which still has a large part of its purchase money on mortgage, which will require the labor and supervision of its managers for years to come, together with supplies at regular intervals from the hands of the benevolent, will only accommodate fifty out of the hundreds and thousands of women and girls who need such a home. Is not the labor mountainous for so small a product? Does it not prompt the thought that the work should be left to individuals, but be done by commissioners —city, State or National—on a scale commensurate with the great, the universal need?

Instead of one, every city should have a dozen such "homes," capable of holding four or five times the number, and managed and regulated as public parks are, by a Board of Central Park. The objections to the routine of the "institutions" would be counterbalanced by the advantages of order, comfort, system and efficiency. Let us say, as the Irishman said of the latter opening and showing ink bottles; a bunch of oak leaves and acorns, with a rising stem, for a candlestick; rustic work handles could be had for a few pennies apiece, though it must be confessed they are more to look at than they are to use; delicate flower holders and vases, wall pockets, bracket, desk and table boxes, five o'clock tea trays, consists in modern jewelry. These sets are perfectly carved and exquisitely painted in imitation of flowers and leaves, the latter being especially beautiful and natural. Birds, generally, boldly holding its scarlet berries, violets, heart's-ease, forget-me-nots and roses. Then, to suit the masculine taste, there are pen wipers, representing birds of animals, painted artistically and the household is remembered in carved crumb brushes, with pretty trays. People with cards for a wooden wedding will go one farther, and have a wooden parson to fail to be as happy as pretty gifts can make them.

LOCKETS AND FANS.

Quaint weird fancies are the order of the day in all that appertains to jewelry. What there is beautiful, however, in a remaining Arabia Felix will soon be a thing of the past, is what I am, I must say, unable to discover. The Sphynx in ear-rings of agate has some artistic merit in the delicacy of the design and workmanship, but an enormous *death's head moth* as a locket is a thing to be fled from and only to be classed with the horrid, though exquisitely carved skulls, with which, as sleeve-buttons and shawl pins, the ruder sex have for some time past entertained themselves by appalling their lady friends. Steel lockets are not pretty, and there is always a danger in wearing a steel watch-chain that your friends "Rob, the Grinder" calls the "electric fluency." Steel, indeed, was originally introduced by a French actor, and though in some designs it has the effect of diamonds upon the stage, it certainly has not when seen in the boxes, and the steel diadems now adopted—It may be observed that steel ornaments and jets invariably revive at the same time—are very far from being as handsome, though quite as expensive as the coral, shell and jet cornets. The lockets I particularly allude to as "new style" are ornamented with what have been political—French or Italian—signification. Alsace and Lorraine arms on each side of the eagle of France, and ear rings and brooch with "Rome" in the finishing uniformly silk cord, piping and buttons—the latter black silk or oxydized silver.

These jackets are much more in keeping with the restricted style of street costume than the absurd Dolmans with their short bodies and wide hanging sleeves, which bear no relation whatever to any part of the dress and do not seem to be a part of it.

Sleeveless jackets of cloth, silk or velvet, are cut with points back and front, plain and close fitting, and are worn over a dress of the same material over a plain, high necked coat, sleeved dress of silk or cashmere in a contrasting color. No trimming is required, the cord and piping forming the jacket, and lace ruffles at the neck and wrists complete the garniture.

A variation from this is proposed for early spring wear, that is already very effective. It consists of a mantellet which deepens at the back and is drawn in to the waist by an elastic string. A secondary cape furnishes additional protection to the shoulders, and turns up at the back in the style that has become so popular; an overskirt accompanies it, which is shaped longer at the back, shorter at the sides and front in outline. There is no looping up. The plain or plaited skirt and close cut sleeves of a serge or cashmere dress look exceedingly well under this costume, in grey or brown ladies' cloth; and if it is as popular as it is pretty and serviceable, it will be very well worn.

NEW YEAR TOILETTES.

There are two occasions upon which New York women—not ladies only, but the rank and file—like to show new and pretty toilettes. These are Easter Sunday and the first of January. Easter Sunday is very apt to be cold and unpropitious, but the first of January is subject to no contingencies. Upon this day the woman who has a home is bound to be at home in all the glory she is able to muster to such of her gentlemen friends who choose to call, and for a brief period, therefore, she is at liberty to revel in the freedom she enjoyed in her girlhood, and forget Mr. Mill and her own subjection to the one-man power.

Naturally her New Year toilette is a matter of greater interest to the wife than to the husband. She cannot tell him how secretly desirous she is to look well, and impress Slowcoach with a proper sense of what he missed by not proposing in time. She would not like to even admit that she wishes to try the effect of her newly acquired matronlys grace upon obtuse individuals who were insensible to her maiden charms when they were in the market. Yet she has a deal of this latent coquetry, useless, and hesitates long between the serviceable black silk, with white *fichu* and overskirt, and the pale blue which "everybody" says is so becoming to brunettes, but which will not stand one single touch from baby fingers.

Well, what is life after all but a fabric made up of infinitesimal light shades, with much black and grey woven in. Let us stick to the blue while we can. But New Year's toilettes! We must pass the old ones, the "made-over" ones, those triumphs of secret skill and ingenuity, that afford twice the satisfaction to the wearer that a brand new dress, fresh from the hands of the *modiste* does, and describe a few prepared for those fortunate ladies whose husbands or fathers have not experienced the tightness of the money market, or who have "pin" money of their own.

One of these is of very rich black silk, plain trained skirt, with a pale lor but no overskirt, only an apron of *gimpure d' art*. The small basque is ornamented with the same to give the effect of embroidery, and has a vest and ruffles of antique lace to complete the neck and wrists of the coat sleeves.

Another black dress is of Lyons velvet, with *cape* collar, cuffs and basque of black moire antique. The skirt was made with a small train and otherwise perfectly plain. A soft, thick ruche of white tulle, finished the neck and wrists.

A handsome dress of white French muslin, properly trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion, has bretelles and sash of pleated chiffon, with crape, interningled with loops and ends of black velvet, the latter edged with lace, the crape with fringe to match.

A charming toilette consists of a soft, pale cameo tinted *satin de Sens*, with overskirt and sleeveless basque, embroidered with shaded tea roses and golden brown foliage, the sleeves *a la Marie Antoinette*, the undersleeves and fichu for the neck of the finest mailines pleating, edged with honiton.

Damask stuffs are not as much worn this season as last, or rather, I should say, not as

TRADES UNIONS IN ENGLAND

A Conference of the Iron Workers.

The Principle of Arbitration Indorsed.

[London (Dec. 9 Correspondence New York World.]

By some strange oversight or piece of folly, the Iron Workers' Conference, sitting at Birmingham during the whole of the week ending December 7th, and to resume to-day, the 9th, has not received that attention from the press to which it is entitled.

The reasons appear to be these: First, the press was not admitted to the sittings of the Conference, and therefore had to depend on the information given from time to time by officers and members; secondly, if members of the press had been permitted to attend, they would have made a precipitate retreat, for eighty-five delegates were crammed into a room of an inn capable of holding certainly not more than forty persons. The consequence was that some were so ill that they had to be sent home, whilst others from time to time disappeared to get fresh beer to neutralize the effects of the foul air of the Conference room.

The body of men assembled at this Conference represent what are called the iron workers—that is, puddlers, furnace men, mill men, rollers, bunders and others, who work it is to smelt the iron and run it out into bars or roll it into plates, as the case may be, for future manufacturing uses. At one time, when drunkenness was less the exception than it now is, these men were considered, as a body, to be the roughest and most drunken of the laboring classes; and certainly the annals of their history for many years were chiefly to be found in the archives of our country justices, or in the calendar of our sessions or assize, which latter take note of the more brutal of our crimes. And no one can wonder who has visited the iron workes at their smelting and blast furnaces that the combination of heat and other restraining influences did often play such pranks before high heaven as to make angels weep. The whole nature of the work seems intended to brutalize the man. As I gazed into the countenances of these eighty-five men I thought that every lineament in their features told the latee of the original "curse" "by the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread," &c., &c. Here no puny sentimentalist was to be seen, but big, broad-shouldered, thunder-fisted men, that sing with a deep variecties and expressions of sound. There is one water leap 1,800 feet high in the Tuolumne canon, but it is not unbroken like the Upper Yosemite, and is in that respect inferior to the latter. The Upper Yosemite falls are 1,600 feet high. In the spring, when the river is full, the fall tumbles into the granite water-worn, rocky bowl with a sound resembling the fall from the sky of gigantic cannon balls on massive and tightly-stretched drums. This sound closely resembles, yet hardly rises to the noisy dignity, of the loudest peals of thunder; but the noise produced by the Tuolumne waterfalls is so indefinitely like that of thunder—a thunder which is brought directly home to the ears by the narrowness and vast depth of the great ice-covered fissure and the unsurpassed facilities it affords for prolonged echoes. One of the waterfalls spreads out at first like a great filmy fan of silver-threaded water, but, after a descent in a single fall of 400 feet, is gathered into a whirled over, closed up with lightning-like rapidity, changed in color, shot down a narrow grove of rocks like an arrow of steam. The main single fall is not bright very much unlike newer and more easily read in the Tuolumne than in the canon, for though called a valley, it is really a canon of the Yosemite. The glacial alphabet, by which the history of the glacial action can be read, is very much blurred in Yosemite by the subsequent action of rain, snow, sun, winds and earthquakes, but in the Tuolumne canon the page is fresh from the glacial work-shops on the summits of Mounts Lyell, Dana, Gibbs and Ritter. The glacial on the lateral moraine is from 1,000 feet to half a mile, and a depth of 800 feet. The glaciers from these mountains, Mr. Muir thinks, at one time not only filled the great Tuolumne canon but probably overflowed it as a river overflows its banks in spring time.

Messrs. Muir and Clark had a tough task in exploring this great canon and its surroundings. They were forced to ford, in July torrents, the sides of which brushed the foot of perpendicular rocks of granite. They camped one night in their shirt sleeves, and on the next morning in fur. One of the walls mentioned is 4,000 feet high.

Those who have come out of Yosemite by the Coulterville trail will remember what a magnificent view of the Bridal Veil fall they had from it. Those falls are by no means the largest, but they are the most beautiful and appropriately named of the waterfalls of the great valley. The wind swings them and disarranges their falling folds and silver threads, just as it would a veil of the most delicate texture. There are no more beautiful bridal veil falls in Hetch-Hetchy valley and Tuolumne canon. There is a greater display and variety of water shapes, hues, falls, rapids and cascades in the latter than in the Yosemite. One imagines that he has seen and heard all the possible combinations into which water can enter to aw and delight the eye and charm the ear after a visit to Yosemite; but Mr. Muir states that the exploration of the Tuolumne canon has revealed innumerable new discoveries in this respect even to him, who has for years been familiar with all the waterfalls of the Yosemite region.

It is evident that these and other recent discoveries in the Sierra Nevada that there is a wealth of wonders there, outside of and in many respects far surpassing those regions on which the eyes of tourists have heretofore rested.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

A Much Needed Road.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Some two or three years ago, at the instance and expense of citizens of Beaver, Washington and Allegheny counties, a railway survey was made from Georgetown, on Smith's Ferry, on the Ohio river, by way of Hookstown, Frankfort Springs and Murdocksville to Oakdale, on the Pan Handle Railroad —it being a direct line along the water courses of Mill Creek, Traverse Creek, Potato Garden and North Robinson runs—a distance of about twenty-six miles, and the whole being found so practicable, and indeed favorable, that a bill for a charter for the construction was introduced and passed by one branch of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, but for some reason defeated in the other, and which, of course, for the time, put the matter to the whole matter. Recently, however, the subject has been revived, and meetings held and resolutions passed, along the route, expressive of the need and importance of such an improvement, and a willingness on the part of citizens interested to encourage and help along with its construction, should the Pennsylvania or any other railroad company be induced to favor or take hold of the enterprise. The inducements it holds out are believed to be sufficient to secure it.

1st It would furnish a short and almost *air line link* of connection between the East and the vast and increasingly important thoroughfare leading to the West, and the last great West, connecting as it would at the Ohio river at Georgetown (or some point near) with the Cleveland, or with the Little Beaver, through New Lisbon, and so on, or with the northern extension of the Wheeling and Southern, or indeed with all these great arms of extension, as they are reaching out and opening up and gathering in the resources of the land.

2d. It would open at once an outlet north for the great and immensely increasing coal interest along the Pan Handle road, which is now only obtained by way of Steubenville or Pittsburgh.

3d. As the entire route is through a most important

THE PETROLEUM QUESTION.

The Producers' and Refiners' Combination.

Adoption of the Agreement by the Producers' Council—The President of the Council Gives His Views on It—They Are Unfavorable to the Success of the Plan.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.
TITUSVILLE, PA., December 24, 1872.

The readers of the COMMERCIAL have already been informed, through special telegrams, of the efforts that have been for some time making to effect a coalition between the oil producing and refining interests of the country, and also of the adoption, at Oil City, by the Producers' Council, of an agreement made between committees sitting at New York and representing the two interests. To attain this result, those favoring and laboring for it have had to do a great deal of hard, thankless work, resting under imputations as unjust as they were unpleasant; and now that it is done they receive but a partial indorsement from their principals. In order to give a correct idea of the division of opinion prevailing in the region, it may be stated that each of the following plans for enhancing the price of crude oil has adherents:

First—A control and regulation of the production and sale independently of the refiners.

Second—A co-operation between the producers and refiners such as has been effected.

Third—The building of refineries and refining of oil by the producers.

Fourth—The throwing of no obstacle in the way of a decline in prices until such a low figure is reached that those operating on it must cease or suspend.

The plan enumerated first may be said now to have been abandoned by all. For a time after the formation of the Council, it found favor with many, and it was not until a lapse of six weeks without improvement in prices revealed the fallacy of attempting to bolster up the market in this way that it was abandoned. The second had a few friends from the start, and after the first failed to work, and the refiners offered to make terms, the majority were quickly convinced that it was the best, and that "Terry of Titusville" resulted. The third had and still retains about a dozen friends who are confident that eventually it will have to be adopted. The fourth plan finds friends among all who drill no wells on credit, and they would willingly suffer temporary loss if in the end "will cat" development in the Parker and St. Petersburg districts would be stopped. As if to more strongly fix the producers in their differences, there is a feeling on the part of all in the upper districts that, during the thirty days' suspension of the lower ones, districts profited most and alone succeeded in getting out their oil, and afterwards, through the pools, in realizing high prices for it. They may be said to favor strongly pan number four, although not expressing themselves in public to that effect, while they are divided in their support of the other.

With this diversity of opinion, and a much greater antagonism of interests, and many local feelings, jealousies, etc., it is a matter of surprise that any agreement was reached. Undoubtedly the credit of bringing it about is due to the refiners, who, whatever their ultimate object may be, must, for the present be credited with having made the most of the producers than the latter have done for themselves. They first proposed a meeting resulting in the "treaty of Titusville," and after that had received the amendments of the Producers' Council, proposed some time ago in the COMMERCIAL, they were still willing to discuss and, so far as they consistently could, to adopt them. In fact it was stated by the producers' committee yesterday that they (the committee) had adhered closely to their instructions in conducting negotiations with the refiners. It is a plain duty, therefore, on their part to live up to the agreement which they have had to a great extent the making of, and which promises, if they exercise a fair degree of diligence and prudence, to give them permanently larger returns for crude than they have had for months. If the refiners have taken the heaviest part of the contract, and risk the failure of the plan to produce, will certainly could not be much worse off than at present, are to reap immediate benefits. In substance, the former agree that they will not until after sixty days from the date of contract, sell any portion of the crude or refined now held by them, except so far as they shall have previously purchased an equivalent of crude oil to take the place of the sale so sold; or shall, through the Producers' Association, and then only such quantities of crude oil as the markets of the world may then take of them; the price paid to be not more than one dollar per barrel of forty-two gallons, at "common points," not less than four dollars in cash to be paid upon the delivery of the oil; for every advance of one cent per gallon in the average sales of refined oil in New York, twenty five cents per barrel additional to be paid for crude; and, finally, to give to the producers the parties on a certain list of exporters by members of the Refiners' Association. In return for all this, the producers simply promise to sell oil exclusively to members of the Producers' Association, and bind themselves that all producers enjoying the benefits of the contract shall sell their oil exclusively to The Producers' Association.

RECEPTION OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE COUNCIL.

When the agreement was read yesterday before the Council, the members were given to understand that they must accept it as a whole, for the rejection of any one section rendered all inoperative. This kept the majority in the traces, and the sections were quickly read and brief running explanations given. When the last section was reached, and a motion to adopt the report made and seconded, that portion of the opposition who favor erecting refineries remitted their views in the following remarks by Capt. Bissell, President of the Council, who acted as their spokesman. He said:

Of course, it is understood that I am opposed to all combinations or arrangements of this kind, and don't think this one is for your good. I was not originally in favor of it, and have seen nothing to convince me that it was. I am opposed to it under all circumstances whatever. I don't propose to go into any discussion of the question. It is a foregone conclusion that this Council will adopt this report under the great present necessities, anything that included a possibility of relief being hailed with favor, and explaining this view, I would like to offer the following:

Mr. C. V. Culver, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and who has been the leader in effecting the present agreement, interrupted the gallery of attempting to bolster up the market in this way that it was abandoned. The second had a few friends from the start, and after the first failed to work, and the refiners offered to make terms, the majority were quickly convinced that it was the best, and that "Terry of Titusville" resulted. The third had and still retains about a dozen friends who are confident that eventually it will have to be adopted. The fourth plan finds friends among all who drill no wells on credit, and they would willingly suffer temporary loss if in the end "will cat" development in the Parker and St. Petersburg districts would be stopped. As if to more strongly fix the producers in their differences, there is a feeling on the part of all in the upper districts that, during the thirty days' suspension of the lower districts,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1873.

THE episcotic appears to have very nearly run its race—principally because there are no more horses to conquer. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the frozen North to the sunny South, it has appeared and nearly disappeared, and everywhere with about the same characteristics. And still the question is: what is it and what the cause? Not alone on the surface of the earth, but below also has the epidemic shown itself; for it is recorded that mules employed in mines hundreds of feet under ground have been affected by it.

LATER returns of the special election held last Tuesday in the Thirteenth Congressional district, for a successor to Hon. Austin Mercur, indicate the election of BUNNELL, Republican, over PIOLETT, Democrat. The poll is said to have been quite light, and the returns are as yet incomplete. Bradford county, it is reported, gave between sixteen hundred and two thousand Republican majority; while Columbia, the stronghold of Democracy in the district, has fallen off from its usual majority of from fourteen to seventeen hundred to about five hundred.

WE HAVE already referred to the general movement on foot throughout the States for a revision of their Constitutions. The contagion has reached Connecticut. The Constitution of that State dates from 1818, and many of its provisions are quite out of harmony with the spirit and requirements of the present age. Among the reforms which it is proposed to introduce are a change in the representative system, which is now fixed according to towns instead of their relative population—the adoption of the minority representation plan of voting, a longer tenure of office, annual legislative sessions, fewer sessions of the Legislature and an extended term of office for the judiciary.

IT IS reported that Senator SUMNER intends, as soon as the condition of his health will permit, to address a letter to the Massachusetts Legislature, announcing that he will not press his proposition to erase from the national army flags the names of the battles won by the Union forces. Senator SUMNER does wisely to respect the sentiments of his constituents and of the country. The introduction of the resolution was a grave mistake. The Senator misunderstood the feeling of the South not less than that of the North, in the matter, as is sufficiently shown by the fact that he has been rebuked by both sections. It is to be hoped the mischievous proposition may never again be heard of.

THERE are those who profess confidence that the Credit Mobilier will prove a discreditable business to not a few persons, whose connection with it will be fully established when all the facts come out—if they ever do. This view of the case has been strengthened by an apparent indisposition to allow the facts to come out. If nobody has reason to fear anything, the investigating committee, when Congress comes together again, will abandon secrecy and conduct their examinations in public. If the reverse is the fact, then all the more necessary is it that there should be no more attempt to cover up or keep back the truth. Congressmen, like other men, should stand by their record—and it is the record that is wanted in this matter.

THE Massachusetts murderer, to whose case we made reference yesterday, who some five or six years ago killed a woman under circumstances of peculiar atrocity, and was thereafter declared to be insane and confined in a lunatic asylum has—his mental disorder appearing to have fully passed away—just been brought to trial for the crime, convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced by the Chief Justice of the State to imprisonment for life. If some other localities—New York for instance—were to adopt a similar mode of treatment in cases where the plea of insanity is entered by the defense, there would be a good deal less excuse for the ominous hints about "lamp-post justice," which are beginning to be so freely indulged in among not a few of the sober and intelligent people of that community.

THE YEAR now closing has been one of the most disastrous for shipping ever experienced. In this country the number of vessels reported lost and missing upon our coasts and lakes during the autumn and winter, is probably in excess of that of any like period in any previous year. The *British Review* says the disasters on the English coast during the same time have been altogether without precedent, while in the North and Baltic seas the casualties have far exceeded those of any past season. It is believed that the number of vessels lost during the present year has been very considerably in excess of the new ones constructed; a fact which, taken in connection with the constant development of commerce the world over, with its attendant increased demand for tonnage, cannot but exert a marked influence in the restoration of our merchant marine.

A TABULAR statement, compiled from official sources, of the respective amounts of the national debts of twenty-seven governments in 1862 and 1872, shows an aggregate increase within that period of nine thousand four hundred and thirteen millions of dollars. There are but three nations in the world which pay as they go without adding to their outstanding obligations—our own country, Great Britain and the little Kingdom of Holland. In all the others the increase of national indebtedness is continually going on, accompanied, of course, by a corresponding increase of taxation, which in some countries is piled up to a degree that absolutely absorbs the whole surplus earnings of labor and capital. Compared with results, it is perhaps an open question whether modern government is not, in a majority of instances, more costly than valuable.

THE substitution of Monday for Saturday as a pay-day for workingmen, a transfer which this paper has steadily advocated, is being strongly urged in a number of influential quarters. The Commissioner of Patents warmly approves the plan. In his address before the Engine Builders' Convention, in Cincinnati, last week, he pointed out, with a good deal of force, the fact that Saturday nights and Sundays after pay-days had ruined thousands of men and brought untold misery upon their families; showing, further, that it was a consideration worth millions to the productive power of the country that the laborer should come to the beginning of his week's work in a proper physical, mental and moral condition, instead of the miserable mood which the excesses attendant on the system as at present obtaining too often superinduced. The plan is far more intimately connected with the welfare of the working classes than would appear from a casual glance, and it is on every ground to be hoped that the change may soon become general.

THE controversy between the railroads and the business classes of the country continues to grow in importance. The action recently taken in New York city at a meeting of general freight agents, representing nearly all the trunk lines in the United States, whereby they bound themselves to oppose to the utmost the freight associations which have been lately formed in the West, is made the subject of extended comment by several of the leading business papers of New York, by which the movement is regarded in the light of a throwing down of the gauntlet on the freight question to the mercantile community of the whole country, and as a distinct warning that henceforth it is useless to make complaints or to demand redress from the railroad companies; since it is obvious that if these lines can keep their agreements literally in force, there will be nothing to prevent them from putting up freights to much higher figures than the present. It is probable that the contest between the railroad and the mercantile interests will shortly attain to a climax.

WELL DONE, Kentucky. A bill is under consideration by the Legislature of that State for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of its school system, and making provision for the education of its colored children—a thing not yet accomplished. Georgia, also, is making commendable educational progress. Up to the beginning of the present year the important city of Atlanta was without any free public schools. There is now in attendance upon them over two thousand white and nearly a thousand colored children. In Louisiana, too, as in all the South, according to a correspondent of the Chicago *Tribune*, everything in future depends upon the instruction and enlightenment of its masses, white and black. This writer says that the one great constitutional amendment needed all over the South is this: "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you;" and he adds that the party or the race which obeys it best will surely conquer in the end. Present appearances indicate him to believe that the colored people of those States are not last in their observance of the injunction.

THE better portion of the press and people of New York city are anxiously and hopefully awaiting the advent of the coming year, for the reason that it will bring with it the retirement of OAKEY HALL from the mayoralty of that metropolis. Nor is there any doubt that to be rid of the rule of such a man is occasion for unmixed rejoicing. Had he chosen to administer the duties of his office with due regard to the best interests of the public, he might unquestionably have prevented many of the colossal robberies of the Tammany gang. Plastic and pliable, however, he appears to have been swayed and moulded by them almost at their will. At least there is not the slightest proof that he ever tried to put a stop to their gigantic thievery, or ever disclosed their nefarious transactions to the public, becoming, to that extent, an accomplice of the most unscrupulous plunderers who ever battened on any community. The enforced retirement of such a person from the chief magistracy of the foremost city of the country is an event which will have the effect to make honest people everywhere breathe easier, and to strengthen their confidence in the value and stability of our free institutions.

REVIVAL OF SAN DOMINGO SCHEME.

Indications which can hardly be mistaken as to their intent seem to point to a revival of the San Domingo scheme. Among those indications, Mr. Secretary DELANO's voyage to the tropics is placed by some too suspicious and uncharitable people, but that is a misapprehension almost too manifest for refutation or even for remark. In the first place, the Secretary's health had notoriously suffered from the manifold and exhausting labors of the Presidential canvass, in addition to the onerous duties of his high office. This well known fact furnishes a sufficient reason for his visit in the depth of winter to a warmer climate. Hence his voyage to the West Indies. A sufficient reason having been ascertained, it is highly unphilosophical, we need hardly say, to look about for explanations which are quite unnecessary to account for a phenomenon. The absurdity of current theories touching the Secretary's voyage is heightened by the circumstance that he is not even known to have gone to the much coveted and talked about island. In the second place, to connect Mr. DELANO's voyage in any direct or even indirect way with the exploded project for the acquisition of San Domingo, is little less than a personal affront to President GRANT. If any such connection existed, the inference would seem quite irresistible to some minds, and highly probable to others, that the President had sent him on the errand. Now, argument can not be required to show how offensive the mere suggestion of such flagrant indirection and subterfuge must appear to a man of General GRANT's character. It is, indeed, likely enough that the President still favors, as he certainly favored formerly, the acquisition of the island as being desirable for military or defensive and other reasons. But having failed to convince the people of the wisdom of the view, and having finally renounced the scheme as impracticable, it is not for a moment to be supposed that he would so soon renew the agitation of the subject, especially in an underhand manner. If his own re-election had seemed to General GRANT to involve the popular indorsement of his scheme, and if he had continued to regard it with the old partiality, he would, of course, have made it a topic in the message, with the view of again bringing it to the attention of Congress and the country. This course would have been characteristic of the man and at the same time politic; whereas the steps falsely ascribed to him by these speculators, wise in their own conceit, would clearly belong to the category of those "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," for which, according to Mr. WILLIAM NYE, "the heathen Chinee is peculiar." We do not believe anything so disrespectful of the President.

It is, however, sufficiently plain that a party in the country, we know not how strong, are resolved to renew the discussion of the San Domingo question. Apparently there is money in it, a pecuniary interest so great as to pay for and justify almost any measure of patience and persistence, and involving many influences as to render an extensive movement in support of the enterprise comparatively easy of procurement. The method of operation by which these persons hope to gain their end is already quite fully disclosed. As much as possible is to be made of the strategic or military argument for the annexation, and in connection with this point the influence and authority of General GRANT are to be urged to the utmost. Then the President's brilliant triumph over his Senatorial opponents is to be represented as implying nothing less than the sanction by the people of his San Domingo policy. To identify the scheme as much as possible with General GRANT seems to these speculators a master stroke. They allege that in the Senate Messrs. SUMNER and SCHURZ in opposing annexation insinuated, if they did not explicitly charge that in recommending the measure the President was moved by pecuniary considerations, and it is farther alleged that this insinuation or charge had much to do in defeating it. But since then, they remark, the people have declared their enthusiastic confidence in the President's integrity, and hence it is concluded that the people would be pleased to see him completely vindicated by the adoption of the measure which was opposed and defeated on such grounds.

The truth is that probably neither Mr SUMNER nor Mr. SCHURZ ever intended even to hint the slightest doubt of the President's entire independence of pecuniary motives in relation to the San Domingo question. But whether they did so or not, it is certain that insinuations of the kind regarding General GRANT had absolutely no effect in causing the rejection of the proposition by the Senate and the ratification of the Senate's action by the nation. To the people, at least to the intelligent part of the people, the arguments against the annexation of the Dominican republic appear overwhelming in their force, as regards the present and some time to come. If, in the opinion of any considerable number the President's honesty in the matter seemed to be impugned or rendered an object of suspicion, (which we do not believe), it was entirely cleared by the report of the Commissioners. And so far was his re-election from being or implying the national indorsement of the San Domingo scheme, that perhaps few considerations did more to confirm confidence in the President and intensify his popularity during the late canvass than his decided and cheerful surrender of the scheme on becoming assured of its rejection by the people.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA IN ASIA.

From a cable dispatch in the COMMERCIAL of Saturday it appears that open hostilities have already begun between the Russians and the Khan of Khiva. Nine thousand of the Khan's troops were reported as besieging the nearest Russian stronghold, and another body of his forces were committing depredations on Russian territory in another quarter. More important than these facts is the announcement of the same date, that the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg had informed Prince GORTSCHAKOFF of the purpose of England to abstain from interference with Russian progress in Central Asia so long as it does not threaten Afghanistan. In this statement, assuming it to be true, there is nothing inconsistent with the report received some weeks ago concerning the pacific counsels alleged to have been given to the Khan of Khiva by the Viceroy of India. "Make your peace with the Czar on the best terms you can, and if you persist in provoking a contest with Russia, look for no aid from this side of the Himmaliahs." Such was the purport of the Viceroy's advice, amounting to a declaration on his part that Russia might, if necessary, subjugate Khiva without British interference. But, according to the dispatch of Saturday, England does not intend to stand neutral if the Czar should push his conquests so far south as to threaten the independence of Afghanistan. His occupation of that country would extend the Russian empire almost to the Indus, and quite to the boundary of British territory. The step would undoubtedly create a ferment throughout India most perilous and perhaps fatal to British rule. Neither Hindoos nor Musselmans will ever be contented under a foreign dominion; under British sway they constantly look for change, and since many years the approach of the Russians from the north has been a continual source of hope and disaffection even among the comparatively pacific Mohammedans of the plains. Then, the Hill Tribes, as they are called, able to turn out between fifty thousand and a hundred thousand fighting men, and living in a state of chronic rebellion or rather hostility against the rulers of the Punjab, whether Sikhs or English, would render a quiet boundary between British and Russian territory simply impossible. The force, martial and restless character of the Afghans presents another reason why Russia can never rule them while the British hold the Punjab. In fact, the attempt of Russia to occupy Afghanistan would reduce interference on the part of England to a question of life or death to the present rulers of India. The struggle between the two powers for the maintenance of Afghan independence would be nothing less momentous to them and to the world than a struggle for the possession of India. Hence when the New York *Tribune* says that, "the only motive which could influence the British in opposing the march of the Russians is that of conflicting commercial interests," that able journal displays a decidedly defective knowledge of Central Asiatic politics, as its geography is somewhat lame in the immediately following statement that, "on the west there is only Persia between the Russians and Afghanistan." Still more surprising is the *Tribune's* assertion that "if Great Britain should oppose these movements she would do so primarily in the interest of hordes of the most lawless robbers in the world." No, no, if England interposes it will not be done in the interest of lawless robbers. To her Afghan independers will seem a very subordinate consideration in the movement.

ANOTHER QUESTION FOR ARBITRATION.

A new European subject looms in the future as one well adapted to test still further the applicability of the method of arbitration to international disputes. Spain, by many hundred degrees less proud and sensitive than she is, could never have regarded with the least complacency or contentment the possession of Gibraltar by Great Britain. It has ever been to her a source of sullen mortification and grief. At length Spain has permitted herself to indulge hopes of recovering the impregnable fortress. Indeed ever since the revolution of 1868 there have been indications at intervals that the Spanish government thinks it may be worth while to enter into negotiations for the purpose, and a petition has lately been presented to the Cortes touching the question of Gibraltar. A circumstance which renders its British occupation a peculiar grievance to the Spaniards is the facilities which the place presents for smuggling and thus diminishing their national revenue. Thus tobacco, which pays a considerable duty in English as well as Spanish ports, is admitted free at Gibraltar, and the consequence is an enormous contraband trade in the article from the Rock as a centre. The Spaniards allege that the place was taken from them by a mere surprise, and that no right of possession can result from such manner of acquisition. In England, on the other hand, a good deal of excitement has been produced by the mere stirring of the question in Spain. They declare that the surrender of the fortress is a thing not to be thought of, as the citadel is too strong to be placed in possession of a nation so feeble as the Spanish. Gibraltar is impregnable, they say, in spite of floating batteries and the perfection of modern artillery. It must, therefore, remain in possession of a people able to prevent it from falling into the hands of a nation capable of abusing the position. Should Spain press her claim, backed by Italy and Germany, the question may easily become one of perilous complication, and the arguments by which the Spanish right is supported are so powerful that England could hardly expect any other than an adverse decision in case of an arbitration.

A COUPLE of cases involving several points of interest to the public have lately been decided, one by an Illinois court, and the other by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. The point at issue in the first case, was the value of a note releasing a common carrier from liability when the shipper suffers damage through the carrier's negligence. In consideration of his goods being transported at a reduced rate, the plaintiff, at the time of shipment, signed an agreement releasing the railroad company from all liability for damages, delay or loss of any kind, whether arising from the negligence of the company, its agents or employees, or from any other cause. While en route, the goods were destroyed by the Chicago fire, in consequence, as was shown upon the trial, of negligence on the company's part. The question for the court was, therefore, whether the writing given by the plaintiff released the company from responsibility. The court decided that it did not, and entered a decision for the amount claimed. In the second case the plaintiff delivered certain goods to a Wisconsin railroad company for transmission from one point to another; through charges having been paid, and the company agreeing to deliver them to the next succeeding carrier at the end of its own line. The goods arrived at the company's terminus, and were destroyed by fire while awaiting delivery to the next carrier. The court ruled that the company was an insurer of the goods, not only while they were in actual transit over its line of railway, but until they were actually delivered to the next succeeding carrier, unless such carrier had refused to accept the delivery, in which case the company might have relieved itself of responsibility by storing the goods and notifying the owner or consigner thereof. Both of these decisions seem to strict accordance with the dictates of business intelligence and integrity. Neither of them impose any real hardship on railroad companies or other carriers, while the principle which they establish is of considerable importance to the mercantile community generally.

SOME even of our oil producing readers may not be aware of the entire prospect of competition in their peculiar product opened up in the late French and present German province of Elsass. A German paper, the *Arbeitgeber*, states that the discovery of petroleum in that region has been known for a considerable time, and that a small beginning in the development of the sources has been made in Schattweil, near the forest of Hagenau. Penetrating a thick alluvial stratum, clay, sandstone and sand veins are met with. These latter appear to contain the petroleum, which is found at the depth of from a hundred and fifty to a hundred and sixty feet. Further explorations in the Hagenau forest led to the discovery of other sources; boring in various places having everywhere disclosed and soaked with petroleum. Enough of the working of these sources is yet little more than begun, enough has been discovered to render it probable that the business may grow into an important industry. According to the authority referred to above, the method of operation is as follows: A shaft is run down to the sand-stratum which contains the oil, and galleries are then opened as in a coal mine. The oil flows out of the sand into reservoirs, from which it is conveyed to the surface. In this manner, however, all the oil contained in the sand is not secured; the sand is then fore taken into the interior where it is distilled in retorts. The crude oil as it flows from the sides of the galleries and that which is distilled from the sand, are both subjected to another process of distillation by which the article is rectified. It is affirmed that the oil thus procured in Elsass is fully equal in excellence to the American product. The oily sand exists in great quantities, and an English chemist who has visited the site and made the necessary investigations, encourages the liveliest hopes of the success of the petroleum business there.

TO WHAT extent the terrible casualties and catastrophes which occurred last week were the result of causes beyond human control, and how far they were owing to carelessness, ignorance, greed of gain and false ideas of economy, will probably never be fully known. There are doubtless some accidents that cannot be avoided, but this should not blind us to the fact that there are many others that in negligence and vigilance might have prevented. It is likely that at least one-half of the appalling disasters of the week were due to the stinginess, the stupidity, or the negligence of men. It is beyond question, for instance, that the recent fires in New York need not have occurred, had the buildings which proved so easy a prey been properly constructed and taken care of. Had human life seemed of greater account than timber and money, it is probable that the Williamsport horror would not have transpired, while the dreadful railroad accidents in this State and elsewhere, from a broken wheel in one case, and sundered rails in the others, show the necessity of the utmost care and discrimination, as well as the paramount importance of exercising increased human caution in proportion to the fall of the thermometer. The protection of the lives, the property and the interests of the people are first, not last; and it is time that capitalists, contractors and corporations were brought to understand it.

THE desirability of establishing closer commercial relations with Mexico is attracting a good deal of attention just at present. The impulse which has recently been given to the trade of that country by the completion of railroads and the pacification of internal disorders, has caused other countries to begin to appreciate the value of its geographical position, and to have an idea of the importance it is destined to play in the future history of this continent and the world. Now that the Vera Cruz Railroad, which brings the Mexican capital within fifteen hours of the seaport, has been completed, the amount of produce available for exportation to foreign markets this year will be more than doubled the next. England, Germany and France perceive that a new era has begun to dawn upon the long distracted Republic, the result being that the Gulf of Mexico already swarms with steamers belonging to those nations. An English company formed to trade between Great Britain and Mexican ports, which already enjoys a subsidy from the British government of some two million dollars a year, has applied for assistance from the Mexican government, which, if granted, will to a considerable extent enable it to monopolize the trade of the Gulf. It is time for the people of this country to open their eyes to the true condition and prospect of affairs, if they would not have the Gulf of Mexico become an English, instead of an American sea.

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GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The city government of Chicago appears to be opposed to temperance and good order on the Sabbath. At the last meeting of the City Councils the majority of the local legislators evinced their sympathies with the rum-sellers by voting to strike from the ordinances all restrictive clauses as to the closing of taverns and public houses. The calling of the roll showed a majority of about two to one in favor of this action.

Among the public amusements at Eaton Rapids, Michigan, on Christmas day, were a bear fight, greased pig race, fox chase, ball and others.

The schools of Alpena, Michigan, have been closed on account of a nameless and hitherto unknown epidemic which prevails in that neighborhood.

English papers report that the Cobden Club are going to call a Free Trade Congress for next summer, and that when it assembles a new move will be made in the direction of international copyright and of uniform international postage.

The contest over Mr. Greeley's will has been adjourned to the second week in January, and as the excitement about the *Tribune* stock which it involved has subsided, it is to be hoped it will be allowed to drop.

Westward the star of empire takes its way. The Superintendent of the Coast Survey locates the center of gravity of our population, by the census of 1870, near Wilmington, Clinton county, Ohio, forty-five miles northeast of Cincinnati. A line drawn from the northeastern corner of Ohio where it abuts on Lake Erie, to Pensacola, Florida, divides the population of the United States, by the census, into equal parts.

The proposal to establish a government Department of Industry, having bureaus of agriculture, commerce and manufactures subordinate to it, is received with favor in many parts of the country.

When a prominent American dies the first thing we resolve to do is to build him a monument, and the next thing—we don't. General Thomas died in March, 1870. Subscriptions for a monument were asked for, and we now learn that they have reached the sum of $4,570.

The State of Iowa has ordered the publication of large numbers of pamphlets in German, Swedish and Norwegian, for distribution abroad. This is an example that might be followed with great advantage in other Western States.

At the Convention of American dairymen, to be held in Utica, New York, on the 15th of next month, a paper is to be read upon the subject of electricity as a practical agent in coagulating milk. What grand possibilities such a discovery would open. Perhaps the electric spark may some day be so utilized that by the turning of a crank one may coagulate an entire cow.

Here is a specimen of what woman can do. The women of the Attakapas parishes and St. Landry, Louisiana, have sent to market yearly, since the war, not less than a million dollars' worth of chickens and eggs, besides supplying home demands and the villages, and those who do not raise chickens in those parishes.

The bitter injustice of unequal pay to competent female teachers is gradually ceasing to be. The San Francisco Board of Education has increased the salaries of numerous lady teachers in accordance with the new law decreeing that masculine and feminine teachers shall receive equal remuneration for equal labor.

The people of Dakota are said to be in favor of a division of that territory, allowing Southern Dakota to retain the present established seat of government, and erecting the territory of Pembina north of the forty sixth parallel. Dakota at present contains an area of 105,932 square miles.

Some idea of the good done by a first rate public library may be derived from a statement of the number of books circulated by the best institution of the kind in the country, that at Boston. According to the superintendent's report for last month, there were taken out for home reading during the month 37,805 volumes, while 3,180 volumes were consulted at the library.

The Norwegian government is preparing a winter expedition bound to Spitzbergen with the view of rescuing, if they be still alive, the crews of eight vessels—whalers, sealers and others—which up to the beginning of October had not returned from their cruise to the Arctic Ocean, between the coast of Greenland and Nova Zembla, to Tromsoe, in Norway, the port from which they started.

Mr. Van Vliet, superintendent of public instruction of the island of Java, who is at present in the United States examining our system of education, says that there are still more than one thousand schools in operation in the Dutch East Indies, and that the Javanese are following how many are falling victims to the poisonous influence upon the heart of the atmosphere of an underground place. Why was the Black Hole of Calcutta so fatal? The simple answer is—Lest the rooms in which you live should be destroyed by ventilation! An investigator differs from all conventional inquirers, and so divided that no draught shall be felt; and by an outgoing draught is meant, they say, the air which supplies the carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, sulphuretted gas, sulphuretted hydrogen, and other noxious compounds, which, they say, are thrown off by the lungs of the same principle to public buildings, theaters, schools, and manufactories, in all places in which people are accustomed to congregate."—*Food Air and Heart-Disease," in Popular Science Monthly.*

Marrying Under Difficulties.

A Missouri justice of the peace received an invitation, a few days ago, to visit a school house some two miles and a half from his residence, there to join in the holy bonds of matrimony a young couple, his Honor's self included. Arriving at the place indicated, he found the temple of learning packed and barred, the only persons visible being the bridal party of four. On entering the house, the justice witnessed—who had sought refuge from the biting blasts of mid-winter by the side of a rousing fire in the building. Nothing better offering, it was proposed that the ceremony should be performed in the aisle. The bridal party quickly arranged, and the male witness leaving the horses, mounted on one of the tables and commenced the duties of the day. Everything went on like clockwork, and the justice, in a few words which made William Burke and Mrs. Eden cage jingle as mere trifles, declared the twain one. The ring five miles on a bitter cold day takes the romance out of even so romantic an event as a wedding.

A New Method of Picture Painting.

The printing of pictures by a new method, known as the Heliotype process, is attracting much attention just now. The following will give an idea of how it is done: A sheet of gelatine is washed in a chromate of potash, which renders it sensitive to light, is printed under an ordinary photographic negative. When the picture appears sufficiently plain the gelatine is taken and made to adhere by atmospheric pressure to a plate. The plate, with the gelatine at rest, is placed in an ordinary platen printing press and inked with ordinary lithographic ink. As in lithography, the greasy ink clings to the plate with water after every impression. Fifteen hundred impressions have been taken without injuring the plate, and if injured, is replaced at a cost of a few cents. The process is, in fact, what has long been known as aquatinic printing. It is applicable to the production of *fac similes* of every variety of picture and engraving, and can be used to produce chromatic prints, and can be used even in pottery and its kindred arts.

Inflammable Costumes.

At the Royal Surrey Theatre, London, they are playing "Notre Dame," founded on Victor Hugo's novel of that name. In the theatre Esmeralda is condemned to be put to stake and burned. Miss Rosamel, who performs the part of Esmeralda, is surrounded by real flames. Many performances have passed since this representation were alarmed for the young lady's safety, fearing that some mishap might occur to the manager, fearing that this anxiety and the fear of a conflagration might interfere with his receipts, has come out in a card published in one of the London daily papers, in which he states that, although it is a fact that fire which surrounds Miss Rosamel there need be no apprehension that danger can accrue to her or others, or to the property about the house, because he has caused the whole costume to be rendered fire-proof by the new patent process.

Poison in the Vanilla Bean.

It is well known that from time to times various cases of poisoning from the use of vanilla ice have been noticed and published in Paris, Berlin and Vienna, and other places. The most careful investigation appears to have never been given to the cases traces of lead, iron, and tin, from the vessels used, have been found in the ice, but also in poisoning has never resulted from fruit ices prepar d in the same vessels. It cannot be due to tin. M. Schiff is of the opinion that the vanilla beans are poisoned by the natives of South America and Mexico, who rub them with Acajou oil to make the fruit smooth and soft. This oil is of a seldom contaminated with a sharp substance which acts like cantharides. He has found by experiment that the injurious effects are due to small crystals found in the outer skin of the vanilla bean—benzoic acid.

Fire-Proof Buildings.

The London *Echo* makes an appeal to architects, and people in general, to show some way in which buildings can be made fire-proof. Writing of the City Flour Mills, in Thames street, which were lately destroyed, it says: "It was a huge granary, such as Pharaoh never built, an imposing object seven stories high, and having four hundred windows. It was actually supposed to be fire-proof. All the known resources of modern science had been employed at a vast expense in making it as safe as possible, and now it stood a mere shell of blackened, tottering walls. So was once a tinder that it had been built of wood and thatched with straw like a wigwam." The *Echo* repudiates the use of iron, as assisting rather than preventing destruction, unless full scope is given for expansion by heat and contraction by water.

THEY drink beer and ale in Chicago to some extent. There are in that city nineteen breweries where these beverages are made, the amount of capital invested being over $3,000,000. Over three hundred bushels of barley are annually consumed, and about 110,000 pounds of hops. This is worked up into 200,000 barrels of beer and 35,000 barrels of ale, all but a very small portion of which is drunk by home people. In the distribution of this liquor to the drinking public, 2,532 saloon keepers obtain their livelihood. About two-thirds of the establishments where the traffic is carried on are owned by Germans, who are great consumers of the home-made beer. In addition to their home brewed, supplies are received from Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Detroit, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Wheeling, Kenosha, Albany, Joliet and Waukegan.

THE *Shoe and Leather Reporter*, in its annual review of tr

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWS PAPERS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Post Office, whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

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C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

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1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING

PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

a paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past for a guaranty for the future. It will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The reaction of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and peace. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

AS A PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST NEWS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known and appreciated. We expend annually many thousands of dollars to supply the wants of the public.

AS A PAPER OF PROGRESS it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this respect.

AS A PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby best subserved.

AS AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise such a party for its wrong doings, believing that in so doing it will best subserve the interests of its friends.

AS A BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ every agency it can command to meet the wants of the public. Now that the period of party excitement has been passed, it will pay special attention to topics interesting in the writing room, the banks and marts of trade, giving prominence to Science, Art, Invention, Agriculture and Manufactures.

AS A PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it will have reading calculated to instruct, improve the reading taste and improve the mind.

AS A MARKET PAPER its reports will always possess a special excellence, so that the buyer and seller can at all times consult its columns for every necessary information as to prices and the spirit of the different branches of trade. Everything that is bought and sold in the Pittsburgh market and the leading markets of the country will receive careful attention, and at a large cost.

The country is about entering on a period of unexampled prosperity. The field of journalism is constantly expanding. It will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to hold a position in it along with the leading journals of the country.

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THE IRON TRADE.

Production of English Furnaces During 1871.

The official returns made to the English Mining Record Office show that in the year 1871 the number of iron ore were produced in Cornwall, 14,126 tons; in Devonshire, 29,884 tons in Somersetshire, 269,950 tons in Gloucestershire, 159,994 tons; Wiltshire, 95,800 tons in Oxfordshire; 179,314 tons in Northamptonshire; 250,673 tons in Lincolnshire; 415,972 tons in Shropshire; 94,300 tons in Staffordshire; 1,515,000 tons in North Staffordshire; 76,655 tons in South Staffordshire; 492,975 tons in Derbyshire; 1,045,645 tons in Leicestershire; 2,763,440 tons in Yorkshire; 4,561,961 tons in the North Riding of Yorkshire; and 467,297 tons in the West Riding; 285,297 tons in Northumberland and Durham; 94,885 tons in North Wales; 969,744 tons in South Wales and Monmouthshire; 36 tons in the Isle of Man; 1,000,000 tons in Scotland; 167,754 tons in Ireland. The total production of the United Kingdom, of which returns were received, amounted in 1871 to 16,365,340 tons, of the value of 47,670,572. To this quantity may be added 1,000,000 tons of burnt for fettling purposes; and 324,175 tons of iron ore imported, bringing the total quantity smelted up to 16,889,091 tons. There were 617 furnaces in blast—172, 429 in England, 117 in Wales, 127 in Scotland. There were 6,027,769 tons of pig iron produced in Great Britain in 1871—4,820,570 tons in England, 1,062,399 tons in Wales 1,00,000 tons in Scotland. This total, estimated at the mean average price at the point of production, would be worth £14,000,000 sterling. There were 34,165 tons of pig iron made in Northumberland, 39,244 tons in Durham, 1,929,000 tons in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and 154,749 tons in the West Riding, 270,455 tons in Derbyshire, 94,300 tons in Staffordshire, 766 tons in Cumberland, 129,467 tons in Shropshire, 268,200 tons in North Staffordshire, 745,716 tons in South Staffordshire, 1,000,000 tons in Lincolnshire, 36,192 tons in Lincolnshire, 96,995 tons in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somersetshire; 510,051 tons in Northamptonshire, 29,000 tons in Durham, 41,895 tons in Denbighshire, 30,065 tons in Brecknockshire, 24,761 tons by anthracite furnaces in South Wales. The total British pig iron forged to work in 1871 includes 26,697 works, and shows 6,341 puddling furnaces and 1,956 rolling mills. There were 3,796 works in Great Britain having Bessemer converters in 1871; the number of converters at these works was 14 furnaces, and the capacities of the converters from 3 to 10 tons. It is estimated that there were 2,393,292 tons of bar, forge and black plates made in the United Kingdom in 1871.

Gigantic Nettles.

As though nature intended to be spotive in her productions on the great island continent of Australia, where both animals and vegetables differ essentially from families to which they bear some resemblance in Europe and America, a species of nettle has been discovered in Queensland which surpasses any there else on the globe. The stinging nettle of Australia, called gympie, often attains a height of forty feet, with a stem not two inches in diameter. It passes for a tree so formidable are its propensities. Armed at every point with needle-like prickles, the unwary traveller who approaches even cautiously without being wounded. No description will compare with one of those shrubs. Every part of the body touched by the nettle is paralyzed, so much so that a limb so touched becomes a useless burden, a puncture from one of these notable thorns. Horses suffer terribly from the sting, instantly throwing their riders, and in their convulsions, succeeded by fiery tortures. The worst sufferings are to man, he may wait next to the grave for relief, and in the meantime be driven to the extremities. A botanist has for many years studied the nettle, but has failed to discover any means of relief. Many have gambled with the nettles as though mere playthings, but in a moment of carelessness it was plucked, and the hand so severely punished that it became helpless. While the pain is excruciating, it is not dangerous, and the effects generally disappear in a few days.

Mr. Bret, at the last meeting of the British Association, dealt with the question of the permanence of the forms of the crater lakes in the moon. He maintained that changes in the appearance and magnitude of the craters have been observed, and that the formation of such a character that they could be accounted for by changes of illumination, but that many were undoubtedly caused by actual changes of form. The inner crater of the floor was found to have increased in size, and the bright streaks radiating from it were also found to have increased. Some of the craters were found to have become smaller, and the bright streaks surrounding them to have disappeared. Changes were also observed in the floors of some of the craters. Mr. Bret considered that these changes indicated volcanic action.

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VOL. X.—NO. 9. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 4, 1873.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

GRAIN SICKNESS IN CATTLE.

The National Live Stock Journal says: When the paunch becomes overloaded with food, the muscular coat of that organ is unable to contract on the contents. Hence the whole stomach is paralyzed, and the functions of digestion entirely suspended. This is a most troublesome disease to combat; and tho' gh the treatment is simple enough, viz: to unload the over-gorged stomach, yet, owing to the size of the organ and the enormous quantity of ingesta it will contain, medicine seems in many cases of no effect.

Something, of course, depends on the nature of the food the ramen is loaded with, and perhaps there is not a more troublesome form than actual *grain* sickness, i. e. when grains, such as wheat, barley, oats, &c., of a fine and doughy nature, they seem less able to excite the ramen into peristaltic action and cause rumination than coarser food, as hay, etc.

The treatment is, perhaps, the first of the objects of the paunch's rapidly unloading, and first of all a brisk cathartic combined with a stimulant, ought to be given. Epsom salts, one pound; powdered ginger, one ounce; treacle, half a pound, dissolved in warm water, glass one ounce. Give in a large quantity of warm thin gruel, in one dose. This may be followed up with repeated doses of linseed oil every few hours, if the purgation and the bowels is perceived; and the first named dose itself repeated in twelve hours, if no relief is obtained. The animal's left side, over the region of the paunch, should be well rubbed with the hand, and a certain amount of exercise given.

When the stomach is relieved of its contents, the greatest care must be taken to prevent a return of the attack. Bad food, or over-stretched coats of the paunch to resume their contractile action. For this purpose the animal must be kept on soft and sugestion food, especially avoiding grain of any kind, and the exercise of the affected, and a very gradual return must be made to the ordinary diet; for when once the coat of the paunch have been over-distended the proper contractile power becomes lost, and a sudden return to the old food, or a hearty meal of some new and tempting delicacy, will be certain to cause a return of the affection.

HOW TO WET SHEEP SUCCESSFULLY.

To bring the flock of sheep into good condition says the *Western Rural*, and to keep them therein, requires not only an abundance of good food, but something besides. Regularity in the time of feeding is of the first importance. In handling flocks of considerable size, we have found that, all things considered, two feedings a day were the best. One need not be in haste to disturb the flock in the morning—say not before eight or nine o'clock, when they should have at least ten hours to feed and rest in the afternoon, in time to be well through before dark. Quiet is another essential to the comfort and thrift of the flock. We do not mean the absence of exercise, which is quite necessary to the health of the animal, but of worrying, crowding while being housed or penned. When it is necessary for them to be moved, it should, if possible, be done with as little noise and by the same person whom they should learn to look upon as their friend. All movements when among or near the sheep should be made as practicable, of such a character as not to startle or cause them to suddenly huddle together, or, should they be alarmed, refuse to fall over some of their number that may be lying down. If we had to name a few words as rules to successful feeding in a few words, we should say:

FRESH WATER AND REGULARITY.

The *Kansas Farmer* gives the following advice as to the care of brood sows: Special attention should be paid to those sows that farrow in winter. A warm, sheltered bed is necessary to save the pigs, and if not already done a pen should be constructed, and the sow placed in it, and supplied with abundance of straw or leaves. In building the pen, it is a good plan to fasten a six or eight inch board against the side of the pen, and about six inches from the floor, so that the sow cannot crush the pigs. This board will be kept away from the sides of the pen, and enables the young ones to get under it in danger of being laid on.

A little oil is fed with turnips or potatoes, either cooked or raw, for a few days before farrowing, it will increase the flow of milk, and relieve constipation, with which they are often troubled at this season of the year.

The pen in which young sows are confined should by all means be covered, to keep out both rain and snow, and they should be early taught to drink milk and slop. This soon brings a young sow's mind to a correct work in its growth, its takes months to recover.

While suckling, from the time of farrowing forward the sow should be frequently given charcoal and salt, as these are in a great measure to remove the morbid appetite that causes them to eat their pigs.

CARGET AND BLOODY MILK.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* writes: I have had considerable experience with cows having the above complaint, for the past few years, and have tried various remedies, such as saltpeter pulverized very fine, giving one tablespo nful at a dose, mixed with one quart of bran or meal. I have used with good success, shoke or nippopperly pokeroot, by scraping or chopping the root very fine and administering it by cutting out the heart of a good sized potato, putting the bunch of roots in the stead and then giving the animal the potato; besides this root can not be found, and then if it be wanted after the ground is frozen, it is hard to be got. It might be dug in summer or fall and kept for future use, but I would much prefer a fresh root.

One year ago two of my heifers had the above complaint very bad, so I got a prescription of a veterinary surgeon and thought that I had them cured; but in a couple of weeks I found it was not the case again as bad as ever. I had heard that beans were good for the garget, so I thought that I would try them, and did so with good success. Scald one quart of dried beans, let them soak in water over night, and stand for an hour or so to thoroughly soften and give the above amount per cow in morning and night, for severe cases. In order to administer it mix the beans with a little meal, applying some salt to their noses.

STARTING EARLY POTATOES.

A correspondent of the *Ohio Agriculturist* says: To have a few early potatoes I have found the following system answer well. I plant my potato sets in pots, say about five or six inches in diameter; the soil I use is pure, mellow, mellow loam and charred c . h with a little peat. Being in pots they can be started wherever there is a little heat. While they are coming on in the pots, leaves and a little manure may put up in a round h apto ferment, then put into a pit or frame; after the bed is in a fit condition of heat, the surface is covered 4 inches deep with half rotten leaves. When the heat is up the pots may be plunged in this material, and the plants kept in them as one pots till the young tubers are the size of large pas or small marbles. This can easily ascertained by turning them out of the pots. I only keep a limited supply of nutriment in this system is that as they are confined in the pots, only a limited supply of nutriment can be afforded, which causes the plants to travel much sooner than would otherwise be the case. Whatever I find that the young tubers are as large as I have stated, I immediately take off the top soil the pots were plunged in. If I find the heat is deficient I add a little more warm manure. Then having had some fine, dry, fairly soft, and charred or burnt earth, with a mixture of a little soot, the bed is covered over to the depth of fourteen or fifteen inches, and the potatoes planted in the same pots I got out of their pots and planted in a frame in rows, in the new soil after it has attained the natural warmth of the bed.

I never use any manure about a little potatoes for the first crop, as the plants are established. By keeping them near the glass and well aired at every favorable opportunity, a good crop of the natural flavored potatoes will be obtained.

HOW COOD EXPENSE SAVED WHEN AT WORK.

They take good papers and read them.

They keep account of farm operations.

They do not leave their farm implements to be scattered over the farm, exposed to the rain, heat and snow.

They repair their tools and buildings at the proper time, and hence suffer subsequently three-fold expenditure of time and money.

They use their money judiciously, and they buy not at auction sales to purchase all kinds of trumpery because it is cheap.

They see that the fences are well repaired, and their cattle are not grazing in the meadow or grain fields in the spring.

They do not refuse to make correct experiments, in a small way, of many new things.

They plant their fruit trees well and care for them, and, of course, get good crops.

They practice economy by giving their stock good shelter during the winter, also good food, taking all that is unsound, half rotten or mouldy off.

They do not keep a tribe of cats or snarling dogs around the premises, who eat more in a month than they are worth in their whole life.

Lastly, they read the advertisements and know what is going on, and frequently save money by it.

Successful farming is made by attending to little things. The farmer who does his best cares for money with best appreciation for it knows it is the best results. Economy are the salt of the earth of success.

CLOVER SEED.

A Canada farmer hit upon the novel and impressive method of putting a couple of sore ears to his clover seed. He broached in which he put his stock, the wire being two or three inches above the close bottom of the trough. The stock in pulling the clover hay from the rack would scatter the seed, almost pure, through the wire into the receptacle below. It is said the farmer saved quite a quantity of seed in this way. This may be, but we doubt if it would pay on the subject.

CLOVER FOR HOGS.

An Ohio log-raiser advocates the system of pasturing on clover during the summer. He protests, as the advantage of this plan, the sentiment that an acre of ground in clover will produce five hogs four months, and it will take the crop from half an acre to feed them the same time. The economy of the clover is to that equal to the rest of the other half acre. He further claims that hogs pastured on clover are in better condition than if fed on corn, and also states that the land is enriched by the clover pasturing.

SPOT IN THE EAR.

A milk cedar will be coaded when well sunk into the earth and not much above its place. Eight feet would be a good depth. The windows near the top of the well should be protected from the sun either by screens on the outside, or with blinds so slanted and screens inside should be made to let in the light. Covering the bottom with broken stone will drain off the water, and the cool and fresh air will render the milder warmer in winter, and cooler in summer. Milk will keep in such a well for a week.

FASTENING HENS.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* gives his experience as follows:—I was just beginning to farm, and as I was desirous of making the best way of fattening hogs, I determined to try the different plans, and also how much corn a barrel of corn will make. I made a board pen and put them in the pen. I also weighed three of the same size and put them in a dry box—average weight, one hundred and seventy-five lbs. I fed six bushels of corn to the six hogs. Then, at the forty days' ending the corn, with plenty of salt and water. Their average gain was seventy-five lbs. The hogs in the pen gained the most. One that was fattened in a dry box weighed eighty-four lbs.; the other four were not so thrifty.

DEVON-SHIRE CREAM.

One of the noted luxuries of the London market is "Devonshire cream," or "clotted cream." The method of its preparation is as follows: From six to eight quarts of milk is strained into a thick earthenware pan or crock, which, when new, is prepared for use by being stood in clear cold water for several days, and then scalded three or four times with skimmed milk. Tin pans may be used if they are scalded in hot bran and left to stand with the tean in them for twenty-four hours. The milk being strained into the pan is stood in a cool room from nine to fourteen hours, according to the temperature. It is then carefully moved to the top of the stove or range, or placed over a bright fire (not too near it), and slowly heated, until the end of a half hour the cream will have shrunken away from the side of the pan and gathered into large wrinkles, the milk at the sides of the pan commencing to simmer. The pan is then carefully removed and strained into pans and left about ten hours, when the cream is skimmed off.

This cream is very delicious to use on fruit or preserves, and is esteemed a great luxury—nothing for about the price per pound of the best butter.

WIND DROPSY IN SHEEP.

Sheep are not unfrequently sufferers from wind dropsy. The symptoms, causes and degrees of danger are like those of wind dropsy in cattle. It is most frequently produced by the excessive eating of young clover and other green food, especially if it is wet from rain or dew, and by grazing on stubble fields. As long as the distension of the stomach is only on the left side there is no danger; but if the other side also becomes distended, death may result. In mild cases the following treatment is adopted: The distended part of the stomach is strongly pressed and kneaded with the hands in a downward direction, and the animal is forced to walk about. A quart of shorts a day may be given, but it may be prudent to decrease the allowance of grain to that of the other half acre. In further claims that hogs pastured on clover are in better condition than if fed on corn, and also states that the land is enriched by the clover pasturing.

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Sheep have been fed to already, but I think it would be better to put a little meal with the shorts. Sheep will feed over the meadow grass, and the meal would be the best to feed sheep. Still peas are excellent feed, and so is a mixture of peas and oats, or corn and oats.

HEAVES, OR BROKEN WIND.

Broken wind is a disease that prevails to a very great extent among the flocks of this country, and although not of a fatal character, it greatly impairs the usefulness of an animal, and materially depreciates his marketable value.

As regards the pathology or true nature of this complaint, a number of theories have been brought forward, and unphysema of the lungs has long been looked upon as the origin of the distressing symptoms, but the real cause or nature of this disease we believe is impaired nervous influence.

The lungs and stomach are largely supplied with nervous influence by means of a great nerve, (pneumogastric), which is liberally distributed to these parts, and when the great centre of digestion becomes affected through indigestible feeding, it necessarily impairs the nervous force.

The great exciting cause, therefore, of broken wind is partial or impaired digestion.

In farming districts allowance we see fodder constantly used of dusty clover hay, chopped food, etc., which abnormally distends the stomach and bowels, and affects the nervous power.

We have often known of young horses healthy in every respect, turned into the barnyard for the winter months, and fed on inferior hay, pea straw etc., and in the course of a few months the wind and limbs are found to be suffering from broken wind, who had never exhibited any appearance of organic disease of the lungs.

Unfortunately, however, results from other causes, as a sequel of severe cases of strangles, or follows a prolonged attack of inflammation of the lungs.

In this troublesome complaint would be of less frequent occurrence if proper care was exercised in the feeding of horses—by giving nourishing food in moderate quantities at proper intervals, especially avoiding a full meal of food, or a hearty meal of some new and tempting delicacy, will be certain to cause a return of the affection.

HOW TO KEEP A CHINESTONE.

First—Don't waste the shingles by running it in water, but if you do, don't allow it to stand in water when not in use, as this will cause a soft place.

Second—Wet the stone by dropping water on it from a pot, suspended above the stone, and stop off the water when not in use.

Third—Don't allow the stone to get out of order, but keep it perfectly round by the use of a pipe or a hacker.

Fourth—Don't oil all greasy tools before sharpening, as grease or oil destroys the grit.

Fifth—Observe. When you get a stone that suits your purpose send a sample of the grit to the dealer for sale, for a hollow stone in pile is enough, and can be sent in a letter by mail.

SOIL IN THE SUN TO TANES.

All young trees (viz, those one and two years planted, and especially those planted this past autumn) should now have four to six inches of some coarse manure, litter, cornstalks, around their roots. And fall be carefully looked after that none of the mulch be nearer than four inches to the body of the tree. This latter item is to prevent injury from mice.

SAVING CLOVER SEED.

A Canada farmer hit upon the novel and impressive method of putting a couple of sore ears to his clover seed. He broached in which he put his stock, the wire being two or three inches above the close bottom of the trough. The stock in pulling the clover hay from the rack would scatter the seed, almost pure, through the wire into the receptacle below. It is said the farmer saved quite a quantity of seed in this way. This may be, but we doubt if it would pay on the subject.

CLOVER FOR HOGS.

An Ohio log-raiser advocates the system of pasturing on clover during the summer. He protests, as the advantage of this plan, the sentiment that an acre of ground in clover will produce five hogs four months, and it will take the crop from half an acre to feed them the same time. The economy of the clover is to that equal to the rest of the other half acre. He further claims that hogs pastured on clover are in better condition than if fed on corn, and also states that the land is enriched by the clover pasturing.

SPOT IN THE EAR.

A milk cedar will be coaded when well sunk into the earth and not much above its place. Eight feet would be a good depth. The windows near the top of the well should be protected from the sun either by screens on the outside, or with blinds so slanted and screens inside should be made to let in the light. Covering the bottom with broken stone will drain off the water, and the cool and fresh air will render the milder warmer in winter, and cooler in summer. Milk will keep in such a well for a week.

FASTENING HENS.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* gives his experience as follows:—I was just beginning to farm, and as I was desirous of making the best way of fattening hogs, I determined to try the different plans, and also how much corn a barrel of corn will make. I made a board pen and put them in the pen. I also weighed three of the same size and put them in a dry box—average weight, one hundred and seventy-five lbs. I fed six bushels of corn to the six hogs. Then, at the forty days' ending the corn, with plenty of salt and water. Their average gain was seventy-five lbs. The hogs in the pen gained the most. One that was fattened in a dry box weighed eighty-four lbs.; the other four were not so thrifty.

DEVON-SHIRE CREAM.

One of the noted luxuries of the London market is "Devonshire cream," or "clotted cream." The method of its preparation is as follows: From six to eight quarts of milk is strained into a thick earthenware pan or crock, which, when new, is prepared for use by being stood in clear cold water for several days, and then scalded three or four times with skimmed milk. Tin pans may be used if they are scalded in hot bran and left to stand with the tean in them for twenty-four hours. The milk being strained into the pan is stood in a cool room from nine to fourteen hours, according to the temperature. It is then carefully moved to the top of the stove or range, or placed over a bright fire (not too near it), and slowly heated, until the end of a half hour the cream will have shrunken away from the side of the pan and gathered into large wrinkles, the milk at the sides of the pan commencing to simmer. The pan is then carefully removed and strained into pans and left about ten hours, when the cream is skimmed off.

This cream is very delicious to use on fruit or preserves, and is esteemed a great luxury—nothing for about the price per pound of the best butter.

WIND DROPSY IN SHEEP.

Sheep are not unfrequently sufferers from wind dropsy. The symptoms, causes and degrees of danger are like those of wind dropsy in cattle. It is most frequently produced by the excessive eating of young clover and other green food, especially if it is wet from rain or dew, and by grazing on stubble fields. As long as the distension of the stomach is only on the left side there is no danger; but if the other side also becomes distended, death may result. In mild cases the following treatment is adopted: The distended part of the stomach is strongly pressed and kneaded with the hands in a downward direction, and the animal is forced to walk about. A quart of shorts a day may be given, but it may be prudent to decrease the allowance of grain to that of the other half acre. If more distended, I think it would be better to put a little meal with the shorts.

Sheep have been fed to already, but I think it would be better to put a little meal with the shorts. Sheep will feed over the meadow grass, and the meal would be the best to feed sheep. Still peas are excellent feed, and so is a mixture of peas and oats, or corn and oats.

HEAVES, OR BROKEN WIND.

Broken wind is a disease that prevails to a very great extent among the flocks of this country, and although not of a fatal character, it greatly impairs the usefulness of an animal, and materially depreciates his marketable value.

As regards the pathology or true nature of this complaint, a number of theories have been brought forward, and unphysema of the lungs has long been looked upon as the origin of the distressing symptoms, but the real cause or nature of this disease we believe is impaired nervous influence.

The lungs and stomach are largely supplied with nervous influence by means of a great nerve, (pneumogastric), which is liberally distributed to these parts, and when the great centre of digestion becomes affected through indigestible feeding, it necessarily impairs the nervous force.

The great exciting cause, therefore, of broken wind is partial or impaired digestion.

In farming districts allowance we see fodder constantly used of dusty clover hay, chopped food, etc., which abnormally distends the stomach and bowels, and affects the nervous power.

We have often known of young horses healthy in every respect, turned into the barnyard for the winter months, and fed on inferior hay, pea straw etc., and in the course of a few months the wind and limbs are found to be suffering from broken wind, who had never exhibited any appearance of organic disease of the lungs.

Unfortunately, however, results from other causes, as a sequel of severe cases of strangles, or follows a prolonged attack of inflammation of the lungs.

In this troublesome complaint would be of less frequent occurrence if proper care was exercised in the feeding of horses—by giving nourishing food in moderate quantities at proper intervals, especially avoiding a full meal of food, or a hearty meal of some new and tempting delicacy, will be certain to cause a return of the affection.

HOW TO KEEP A CHINESTONE.

First—Don't waste the shingles by running it in water, but if you do, don't allow it to stand in water when not in use, as this will cause a soft place.

Second—Wet the stone by dropping water on it from a pot, suspended above the stone, and stop off the water when not in use.

Third—Don't allow the stone to get out of order, but keep it perfectly round by the use of a pipe or a hacker.

Fourth—Don't oil all greasy tools before sharpening, as grease or oil destroys the grit.

Fifth—Observe. When you get a stone that suits your purpose send a sample of the grit to the dealer for sale, for a hollow stone in pile is enough, and can be sent in a letter by mail.

SOIL IN THE SUN TO TANES.

All young trees (viz, those one and two years planted, and especially those planted this past autumn) should now have four to six inches of some coarse manure, litter, cornstalks, around their roots. And fall be carefully looked after that none of the mulch be nearer than four inches to the body of the tree. This latter item is to prevent injury from mice.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26, 1872.

The Union Pacific Road—A Coal Monopoly.

The government directors of the Union Pacific Railroad have made a report upon its condition. They find it in excellent order and utmost respects well managed. The opinion is expressed that the interests of the road would be better subserved if the headquarters of the management were removed from Boston and New York to Omaha, or some point upon or near the eastern terminus of the road. The directors call attention to the contracts, the road with the Wyoming Coal Company, by which the latter have virtual monopoly of all the coal lands on the line of road for fifteen years. The coal company agrees to supply the railroad for that time for ten per cent. upon the cost of production, and the railroad agrees to put in all the side tracks needed and to keep a supply of coal cars on hand, and to allow a rebate of twenty-five per cent. on freight of all coal shipped. The opinion is expressed that the railroad company is also bound to discontinue or discriminate against all other coal companies. The effect of the contracts is to make the whole country on the line of the road dependent upon this monopoly. It also appears that the coal company is chiefly composed of officers and stockholders on the road.

The Chattanooga Postmastership.

Capt. Critchfield, member elect from the Chattanooga district, had an interview with the President to-day, and explained how Sam Bard had played a trick on all who gave him recommendations, as they supposed, for a place abroad or in the Territories, and had sold them to secure the postmaster's place in Chattanooga itself. The President said he had in this case gone beyond the usual line in allowing members of Congress to name appointees, and had appointed Bard only because he had supposed, in accordance with the usual custom, he was the choice of the Republicans of Chattanooga for postmaster. Bard has since been found to be a defaulter to the Government, and the President has directed his removal. The President said he would not appoint any one to office who would betray his confidence in this way.

Trade Beginning Thrown Off the Track.

The fast express west on the Baltimore and Ohio Road, last evening, was thrown from the track east of Harper's Ferry by obstructions intentionally placed on the track. The locomotive was badly wrecked and seven jolts of track were torn up. The engineer was slightly injured and three of the passenger cars, and no lives were lost.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26, 1872.

Wedding in High Life.

The wedding of Representative Tyner, of Indiana, and Miss Hinds, of the city, took place at the Metropolitan Church last night. The occasion was one of the most brilliant of the season, and the official life of Washington was fully represented. The Bridal party left last night for Boston.

A Dull Christmas.

Christmas here has said and been as quiet and dull as to-day. The interment of the infant child of the snow storm in the afternoon carried the streets to be almost entirely deserted throughout the day.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1872.

Boutwell's Resignation.

Secretary Boutwell has not yet tendered his resignation, but will retire from the cabinet about the middle of February, and enter the canvass for U. S. Senator from Massachusetts. There seems to be but little doubt but that Assistant Secretary Richardson has been agreed upon as his successor. Upon the President leaving home some time since this week Mr. Boutwell would retire, he is limited a desire to give the place to Mr. Dobson, but after consultation with the latter the matter was postponed. Dobson will probably be appointed to the vacancy in the Board of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and Richardson, who is a practical financier, will be appointed Secretary of the Treasury.

Senator Cameron's Illness.

Senator Cameron has started for Kansas with the belief that the latter of his sons-in-law, the husband of the prairie of the Potomac, Secretary of the Interior, Department that a portion of Red Cloud's band were off their reservation and committing depredations and murders south of the Platte. General Smith, General Ord and Indian Agent Daniels united in a request that the Indians of that section might be attacked whenever found off their reservation. The request has been granted.

Train Designedly Thrown Off the Track.

The fast express west on the Baltimore and Ohio Road, last evening, was thrown from the track east of Harper's Ferry by obstructions intentionally placed on the track. The locomotive was badly wrecked and seven jolts of track were torn up. The engineer was slightly injured and three of the passenger cars, and no lives were lost.

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